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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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HELENA, MONTANA 59620

Re: Preliminary Environmental Review
State Prison-Class II Landfill

Board of County Commissioners, Powell Co. Courthouse, Deer Lodge, MT
Rick Duncan, County Sanitarian, 409 Missouri, Deer Lodge, MT
Richard Wallace, VMC Supervisor, State Prison, P.O. Box 7, Deer Lodge, MT

Dan Russell, Corrections Div., Dept of Institutions, 1539 11th Ave., Helena

Bill Thompson, Plant Supt., State Prison, P. O. Box 7, Deer Lodge, MT
Tom Ellerhoff, Environmental Sciences Division, DHES, Helena, MT
Environmental Quality Counsel, Capitol Bldg., Rm. 432, Helena, MT
Harold Chambers, State Library, Capitol Complex, Helena, MT

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 16.2.604, the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning Montana State Prison, Class II landfill.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15) days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within the allotted time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive ink, appearing to read "John C. Geach".

JOHN C. GEACH
Solid Waste Management Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division

JCG:vc
Encls.

WILDE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
Cogswell Building, Helena, Montana 59601
(406)449-3946

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences/Solid Waste Management Bureau

Project or Application Montana State Prison - Deer Lodge

Description of Project The Montana State Prison has in the past operated its own landfill site at the prison facility 3 miles west of Deer Lodge. This landfill serves only the prison population and is used for the disposal of both Group II (kitchen and putrescible wastes) and Group III (lumber and wood waste) materials. The prison has submitted a solid waste management system license application to obtain a Class II landfill license for this landfill.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
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1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality
5. Aesthetics
6. Air quality
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy
9. Historical and archaeological sites

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats				X		
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution				X		
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture			X			X
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality				X		
5. Aesthetics				X		
6. Air quality				X		
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy			X			X
9. Historical and archaeological sites				X		

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue			X			
4. Agricultural or industrial production				X		X
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income				X		
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity and distribution of employment				X		
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		X
11. Industrial & commercial activity				X		
12. Demands for energy			X			X
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals				X		
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows				X		X

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction _____ Powell County Health Department _____

Individuals or groups contributing to this PER. _____

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS _____ No EIS Necessary _____

PER Prepared by: J. C. Gant

Date: _____

STATE PRISON PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture

Normal landfill operations modify the soil's moisture and stability within the filled areas. Some minor settling may occur over completed trench areas. However, with proper grading and re-dressing of these areas no serious or long term surface settling problems will result.

8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air and energy.

Landfilling operations permanently alter the future building potential of a completed landfill site. Due to ground instability and the potential of methane gas generation, completed landfills can not be used for the construction of conventional buildings. Special construction designs can be incorporated into structures to allow them to be placed on completed landfills. The location of this landfill may alter or limit the future building plans and potential of this property.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue

Powell County operates a county wide refuse disposal district to serve the solid waste disposal needs of the county. The prison has elected not to participate in the county's program and instead decided operate its own landfill site. The operation of this landfill will therefore reduce the amount of potential revenue which could be generated to operate the county solid waste program. However, under this arrangement the district is also not incurring any additional costs in providing disposal services to the prison facility.

10. Demands for governmental services

Governmental services will be required on the local and state level for inspectional and administrative services associated with the issuance of a solid waste management system license to this landfill.

12. Demands for energy

Diesel, gasoline and other petroleum products will be consumed in the transportation of refuse to the landfill site and in the operation of the equipment needed at the site to properly handle and dispose of this refuse.

14. Transportation networks and traffic flows

Since this landfill is located within the prison compound and will only be used by prison staff for the prison's refuse, no additional traffic flow on the areas public roads will result.

